

**MINUTES
CITY OF BLOOMINGTON
COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY**

Tuesday, September 10, 2013

6:00 pm McCloskey Room, City Hall, 401 North Morton Street

Next Meeting: Tuesday, October 10, 2013

Roll Call:

Members present: Maggie Sullivan, Cynthia Schultz, David Parkhurst, David Rollo, Molly O'Donnell, Rita Drescher, Andrea Jobe, Jeff Jewell, Gary Charbonneau

Regrets: George Huntington, Claire Cumberland, Bill Brown, Randy Cassady

Staff: Jacqui Bauer, Anna Dragovich (City Planning)

Public: Annalise (new county intern), Carissa (Environmental Commission) and Tim Gates

Chair Maggie Sullivan called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm.

Announcements:

Tim Gates from a new green building-oriented student group on campus introduced himself. They will work with the local chapter of the USGBC, organize tours, etc.

Dave P mentioned a recent article in the NY Times written by recent administrators of the EPA calling for a carbon tax.

Ashley announced a garden work day at the Youth Services Building on September 28 from 1-5pm. She will share more details soon. She also said the Monroe County Environmental Quality and Sustainability Commission will be meeting tomorrow.

Jacqui announced an upcoming Local First fall kick-off event on October 2 starting at 5pm.

Dave R. expressed concern about a piece of legislation to be considered tomorrow night by the council. A portion of the legislation addresses salvage of metals, and attempts to do a better job of tracking stolen property. However, it may have the unintended consequence of reducing the ability of salvage yards to accept small quantities of recyclables from individuals.

Approval of Minutes:

The July minutes were approved unanimously.

Open Streets Bloomington – presentation by Anna Dragovich

Bloomington's first Open Streets event will take place on September 22 from 10am – 3pm on W. Kirkwood between Rogers and College.

These types of events involve closing streets to cars and opening them to people – also called ciclovía or Sunday Streets. There are 90 going on nationwide, but originated in Bogotá Colombia. Basic idea is to promote all kinds of physical activity and active transportation, highlight local businesses.

Activities will include yoga, hula hooping, salsa dancing, ziplining, etc.

People can contribute to the Kickstarter campaign, sponsoring, leading an activity, volunteering, publicizing, and attending.

Report from the Chair:

Maggie and Cynthia are stepping down as co-chairs, and Molly and Jeff are stepping in. Maggie motioned for approval of this leadership transition, and the motion was approved unanimously.

Imagine Bloomington – a public meeting will be held on September 12 to review draft goals related to transportation, economic and sustainable development, and government services. Maggie encouraged everyone to participate in the process in some way.

Future speakers – someone from Bloomingfoods to discuss opening a community grocery store; Shahzeen Attari to discuss energy efficiency and behavior; someone to discuss green jobs/economic and sustainable development

November meeting – Jacqui will check if this conflicts with Veterans Day.

Cynthia also noted that BCOS needs to schedule a report to the Council toward the end of the year.

Report from Sustainability Coordinator:

Jacqui reported on another successful Hoosier to Hoosier Community Sale. The effort diverted an estimated 45 tons of waste from the landfill and raised \$33k.

Committee Report:

- Environmental Commission Planning Committee: Dave R. has not been able to attend a meeting recently so no report.
- STAR: Maggie is aiming to have info on the food section next month. For the next sections, will potentially look at economy and employment/green business, and to partner with the Environmental Commission to address toxics. Ashley will follow up with Jacqui and Maggie to discuss the next steps further.

Molly suggested that members identify areas of the STAR report that are of interest, and take the initiative to provide reports, write editorials, and otherwise increase the profile of different issues in the community.

Maggie will share a link to the sustainability topics pages of the City website. Some of the pages and topics have no content yet because the commission hasn't addressed them yet.

Maggie and Jeff met with County Planning today to discuss their plans and policies related to urban agriculture and local food. They'll be looking to share some ideas and get public input over the winter. The general tone was very positive.

Ashley noted that the County's effort to examine uses for the Thompson property could relate directly to the issues of urban ag. Having 90 acres right in the middle of downtown creates unique opportunities.

Dave P noted that we should try to include populations like veterans in our efforts.

- Global Reporting Initiative: Cynthia and Molly have been working with Ball State and the Kelley School to develop a report through the Global Reporting Initiatives process. The draft report is being reviewed and will hopefully be online soon. Cynthia asked for input from BCOS by Friday (9/13).

Jacqui will take the final draft to the mayor's office for final review.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 7pm.